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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE TS 205229/73/1

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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**SPRA#6**

30 October 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: National Security Council  
Intelligence Committee

SUBJECT: Key Intelligence Questions for FY 1974

1. Attached is my list of priority national intelligence subjects and related key intelligence questions for FY 1974. This list represents those substantive matters which I consider to be of greatest importance to the top level consumers of national intelligence.

2. I intend to use this listing, as amended by any comments NSCIC members may make, as a basis for tasking the collection and analytical assets of the intelligence community during the remainder of FY 1974. The results will be used as a major indicator in assessing the performance of the intelligence community during the balance of the fiscal year. It is therefore important that the subjects and questions be truly responsive to the important needs of the NSC. I request, therefore, that NSCIC members, in reviewing this package and forming any comments, base their judgments on their needs as consumers of intelligence.

3. I intend to provide the USIB agencies with specific guidelines as to how the responses to the key intelligence questions will be framed. Each response will have five parts:

First, inclusion of the subject in regular agency collection and analytical work on a priority basis, the results appearing in regular production output;

Second, a brief summation of important community judgments on the topic as contained in recent intelligence publications, with a highlighting of agreements and disagreements and the uncertainties underlying the judgments;

Third, an identification of important collection or analytical gaps;

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Fourth, a proposed collection and analytical strategy to fill the gaps, in specified time frames;

Fifth, a recapitulation and evaluation after FY 1974 of the performance of the community and the individual agencies in responding to these subjects and questions. The conclusions therefrom will be included in the resource allocation and evaluation process at the time of my National Intelligence Program Recommendations to the President in November 1974.

4. It will be obvious that the questions do not encompass the entire spectrum of intelligence needs. Some matters of continuing importance (e.g., strategic warning of hostilities involving the United States) are not included in this listing. These will be reflected in the comprehensive listing of U.S. Foreign Intelligence Priorities in DCID 1/2 currently being considered by the USIB. The purpose of the attachment is rather to identify the subjects on which intelligence inputs are now or shortly will become of highest interest to policy levels of our government. It is an attempt to anticipate the needs of policymakers. The focus is entirely on the world environment during the balance of this fiscal year. Our longer range interests, and the improvement of intelligence capabilities to cope with such, are separate even though related matters.

5. I would appreciate receiving by 22 November comments concerning the key questions and any additions, deletions, or re-wording you consider would improve the listing.



W. E. Colby

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Attachment  
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